

# SVNP NEWSLETTER, JANUARY, 2024

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11 MEETING

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as March, 2024. As usual, any suggestions you may have for programs – especially of a how-to nature – would be appreciated. Please email ([wah@waynehallphotography.com](mailto:wah@waynehallphotography.com)) or call (978-443-9226) Wayne if you are willing to give a presentation yourself or if you know of someone to recommend.

## **Evening Presentation - Phyllis Neufeld**

This past October (10/23) **Phyllis Neufeld** and her husband traveled with the tour company, [Hurtigruten](#), to both Patagonia and Antarctica. Phyllis promises to talk about Patagonia sometime in the future and the program on this occasion concentrated on the Antarctic portion of the trip, starting with the crossing of the Drake passage, a “narrow” (~850 km) strait between Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands. The videos Phyllis offered showed that this section of ocean lived up to its rep – high wind, high waves, seabirds on the wing and icebergs. There were also fine stills of the same. Indeed, the trip was largely characterized by the harshness of the environment.

The first landfall was in the South Shetland Islands where the intended first visit (to Aitcho Island) was canceled due to the presence of bird flu amongst the penguin colonies there. Traveling on, it was possible to debark at Half Moon Island for some snowshoeing. The curious penguins were amusingly oblivious to the humans’ resolve to maintain a distance between the species of no less than 15 feet (5 meters). The expedition participants quickly became adept at identifying the amphibious fauna of the area: penguins and seals – there is no food to sustain terrestrial fauna in these latitudes.

The ship and its company kept on, visiting islands in the archipelago, all the while approaching landfall at the Antarctic Peninsula, where the first visit was to Neko harbor. It was at this point that the hitherto unremittingly gray skies broke and the landscape became a good deal less gloomy but no less impressive or inhospitable. Snow and blue sky go so well together! Skies blue or gray, the occasional patch of red (e.g., penguin guano, the rusted hulk

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of the Governoren) added welcome variety. Crossing paths with a rarely-encountered [Arnoux's beaked whale](#) was a highlight.

Phyllis constructed her presentation in imitation of a photo album in which each succeeding page might have any number of related images displayed in any arrangement. One or several photos might be commented upon but there were often plenty more to which the eye could wander. These pages helped move things along and added a comforting sense of context while the occasional appearance of single photos added emphasis. Phyllis concluded her talk with a slide reading only, "A Trip of a Lifetime". Indeed, such an adventure is probably on a good number of bucket lists.

Interestingly, according to the January 7, 2024 front page of the Boston Sunday Globe, perhaps as many as 100,000 tourists made the trek to Antarctica in 2023 - big business that must inevitably put some pressure on the environment. Still, one suspects that there may have been some presentation attendees who, having noticed the hardiness required, were left considering putting *not* going to Antarctica high on *their* to-do lists. Nevertheless, the group was very appreciative of having had the vicarious experience through the medium of Phyllis' enjoyable presentation. Next stop, Patagonia...

### Member Images

Stephen Gabeler showed a suite of images from his 51st annual October trek to Acadia National Park. A quote from Gabe's accompanying commentary serves to summarize his approach succinctly, "I used to have difficulty with the clutter in nature, trying to photograph it, you know, when there weren't these big open vistas like you see out west. Over time I've learned to pay more attention to what I'm looking at ... and sometimes things jump out at you - often they're very subtle." Or as I recall him saying on another occasion, "There's something there. But what?"



## UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

February 8	Karen McQuillan	<i>Having More Fun with Travel Photography</i>
March 14		<i>Semi-annual Member Images Night</i>
April 11	Ed McGuirk	<i>Spring in New England – Nature's First Green is Gold</i>
May 9	Ron McAdow	<i>Concord Wetland Wildlife: Close Looks at the Animals of Thoreau's Favorite Swamp</i>

Please Note – All meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

Great Room, Newbury Court  
100 Newbury Court, Concord, MA

The decision to hold in-person meetings will be made on a month-to-month basis and communicated approximately a week before the meeting.

Updated directions to the Great Room and instructions for underground parking (to be available starting at 6:10pm on meeting evenings) may be found at the link immediately below.

[http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions\\_to\\_Newbury\\_Court\\_Great\\_Room.pdf](http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions_to_Newbury_Court_Great_Room.pdf)



<http://www.svnpweb.com/>

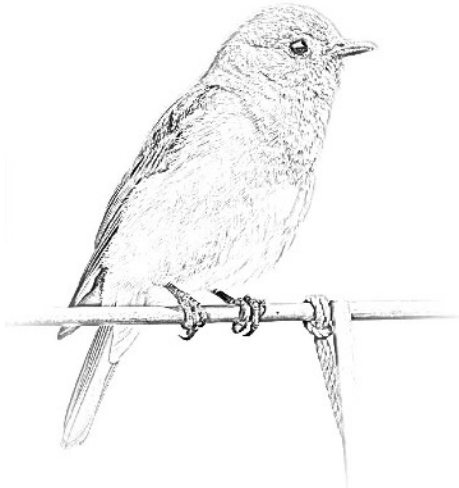
# SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

## Group Exhibits

### Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall ([wah@waynehallphotography.com](mailto:wah@waynehallphotography.com)) of your upcoming individual exhibits for posting on the SVNP website.

Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge ( <a href="http://farnwr.org/gallery.html">http://farnwr.org/gallery.html</a> )



### An Invitation from your Editor

If having a meatier monthly read is of interest to you then, please, I invite you to send anything you may wish to contribute to future newsletters (a précis of an upcoming presentation, photos, personal news, reviews, neat tricks you find worth sharing, etc.) to me at [henkbroekman@gmail.com](mailto:henkbroekman@gmail.com). Please include SVNP in the subject line.

I especially invite presenters and members sharing images to select and submit files for illustrative purposes. I expect it would be possible to accommodate two images or so for main presenters and one each for after-presentation sharing. Generally, expect to see half-column layout along the lines of this example. If you have photos you may wish to share, please submit jpg files sized no smaller than 1200 px on the long side. Submission deadline will be 11:59 pm on the Monday following the meeting. Inclusion in any particular newsletter will be at my discretion based on newsletter length, distribution file weight, current workload, etc.

*Hendrik Broekman*



*A Mite Seedy;  
photo, Hendrik Broekman*